

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

**NOTICE OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL RULES OF BANKRUPTCY
PROCEDURE**

Effective December 1, 2003

The Judicial Council of the United States has adopted a privacy policy concerning bankruptcy matters. This policy provides that the court has access to the debtor's full social security number, but limits the public's view capabilities to only the last four digits. The implementation of this policy calls for the debtor to list only the last four digits of the Social Security number and for omission of other personal identification information. Substantive changes to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 1005, 1007 and 2002, and Official Forms 1, 3, 5 - 10, 16A and 19 become effective December 1, 2003. **The purpose of this notice is to highlight said rule changes, and strongly urge you to contact your petition preparation software vendor for appropriate software revisions.**

Key changes include the following:

- The petition, Official Form 1, must contain only the last four digits of an individual debtors' Social Security number.
- Amendments to Rule 1007 require the debtor to sign a verified statement containing the full nine-digit Social Security number.
- **The new Statement of Social Security Number will not become part of the case file available to the public at the court (if applicable) or over the Internet.** The procedures necessary to comply with this change will be published by Local Rule or Administrative Order, prior to December 1, 2003.
- Rule 2002 requires the Clerk to include the debtor's full Social Security number in the copy of the Section 341 meeting of creditors notice, Official Form 9, sent to creditors, the debtor, the trustee, and the United States Trustee or bankruptcy administrator (if applicable). The public copy of the section 341 notice contained in the court case file will display only the last four digits of the Social Security number.
- Official Form 10, Proof of Claim, requires a wage creditor to disclose only the last four digits of the creditor's Social Security number. Subtotals for unsecured, secured, and priority will be added to the box for the total amount of the claim and a box will be added to the proof of claim form for unsecured nonpriority claims. In addition, the shading will be eliminated from both the proof of claim form and the section 341 meeting of creditors notice.

- Official Form 16A, the full caption, must include only the last four digits of the debtor's Social Security number. Accordingly, subsequent notices will either include only the last four digits of the Social Security number or none of the Social Security number.

The responsibility to redact personal identifiers from pleadings, or not to include such information at all rests solely with counsel and parties-in-interest. The Clerk's Office will not review each pleading or attachment for compliance with the policy.

The Rule Amendments are not retroactive. Courts will not go back and redact documents filed before the adoption of the policy. Likewise, courts will not be required to eliminate electronic access to documents that could be electronically accessed prior to the policy.

The procedures necessary to comply with the Privacy Policy will be published by Local Rule or Administrative Order, prior to December 1, 2003.